

## **Trap Pond**

88 acres

Trap Pond State Park

33587 Bald Cypress Drive, Laurel, DE 19956

### ***Fish community***

In the spring of 2014, the Division of Fish and Wildlife sampled the fish community in Trap Pond via electrofishing boat. Results of sampling revealed a well-rounded fish population. Although Largemouth Bass are not abundant, the proportion of larger fish ( $>17''$ ) has increased in recent years. According to data from Delaware's Sportfish Tournament Program (<http://de.gov/livereleaseprogram>), several memorable sized bass ( $\geq 20''$ ) were caught by anglers between 2011 and 2014. Average weights, which are an indication of condition or 'plumpness', were good for most size groups. The northern shoreline from Cypress Point (see map at park) upstream often holds bass on the drop-off just offshore, especially during spring and fall months. Habitat is plentiful with the scenic cypress trees growing throughout the pond.

Several panfish species are available including: Bluegill, crappie, Redear Sunfish, and Yellow Perch. Periodic removal portion of overabundant small crappie by Division biologists is to improve the population and increase growth. This management measure has resulted in larger, citation-sized ( $\geq 11\text{lb}$ ) reported by anglers. Redear Sunfish were first documented in Trap Pond in 1995 and have since built up a population. This fish, commonly referred to as 'shellcracker' of its diet of snails and small shellfish, grows much larger than typical Bluegill. It is not unusual for boat anglers to catch one 1-pound Redears. The cypress tree islands in the upstream of Trap Pond seem to attract good numbers of large Bluegill, Sunfish, and Black Crappie during the early fall. American eel common in Trap Pond with Golden Shiner, Brown Bullhead, Chubsucker, and Chain Pickerel being less abundant.



*Citation-sized Redear Sunfish caught during fish community sampling at Trap Pond*

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crappie  
  
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or more  
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Redear  
are  
Creek

### ***Aquatic vegetation***

The dominant pond vegetation is spatterdock (bull lily) which provides habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms. Algae blooms are common in the summer months and are a symptom of excess nutrients in the pond. Both filamentous algae (threadlike strands) and planktonic algae (microscopic single celled algae) are often present. Planktonic algae can become so abundant that the water color appears green or bluish green. Planktonic algae blooms do not usually impede fishing like filamentous algae which can wrap around boat props or foul fishing line.


### ***Access***

Trap pond is surrounded by state park land and has ample shoreline access for angling. In addition, a pedestrian walkway across the downstream end of the pond has a fishing pier. A boat ramp off of Trap Pond Road is a good launching site for small ( $<20\text{ft}$ ) boats and the parking lot can accommodate numerous boat trailers. Canoes, kayaks, paddleboats, and row boats can be rented during the summer season for an hourly fee. Pond tributaries can be accessed via canoe or kayak and provide a beautiful place to fish among scenic old cypress trees. If you want to head downstream from the pond, James Branch, a dedicated nature preserve and scenic area, flows to Records Pond. Always check with the park office to make sure the canoe trail is

open. It may be unavailable due to fallen trees or inaccessible during periods of low water flow such as during mid to late summer.



*The boat ramp is located on the north side of Trap Pond off of Trap Pond Road.*






## STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

**When you leave a body of water:**

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.



*Help us stop the spread of invasive species*

### ***Special Conditions***

A daily fee is charged to enter the park or an annual park pass can be purchased. Check online ([www.destateparks.com](http://www.destateparks.com)) for the opening and closing of the fee season and general park information or contact the Park Office at (302) 875-5153. Camp sites, boat and canoe rental, a nature center and evening ranger programs are also available. Reservations may be made online at the Division of Parks and Recreation website.

***(See Pond Map on next page)***

# Trap Pond

## Sussex County, 2015



0 250 500 1,000 Feet

### Legend

-  Flow
-  Boat Rentals
-  Piers
-  Fishing Pier
-  Parking
-  Boat Ramp
-  Vegetation
-  Bald Cypress Trees
-  State Park Borders

Surface Acres - 88

Maximum Depth - 6.4 feet

The parking area and boat ramp can be accessed Trap Pond Road.

